

What is claimed is:

1. A latch mechanism for selectively latching a door to an automotive vehicle,
said latch mechanism comprising:
 - 5 a latch hook movable between a locked position and an unlocked position;
 - a release lever operatively coupled to said latch hook for selectively moving
said latch hook between said locked and unlocked positions; and
 - an inertia lever engagable with said release lever to prevent movement of said
latch hook between said locked and unlocked positions, said inertia lever movably
10 supported within said latch mechanism for moving in and out of engagement with
said release lever in response to a side impact upon the vehicle.
2. A latch mechanism as set forth in claim 1 wherein said release mechanism
includes a slot presenting sides for engaging a portion of said inertia lever for
15 automatically toggling said inertia lever in response to movement of said release lever.
to prevent seizing of said inertia lever within the latch mechanism.
3. A latch mechanism according to claim 1 including means for biasing said
inertia lever to a first position out of engagement with said release lever.
20
4. A latch mechanism according to claim 3, wherein said inertia lever includes a
tab and said release lever includes a slot which is aligned with and engages said tab
when said release lever is actuated to unlock said latch hook when said inertia lever is
in said first position.
- 25 5. A latch mechanism according to claim 4, wherein upon side impact said
inertia lever moves to a second position such that said tab is not aligned with said slot.
6. A latch mechanism according to claim 5, wherein said inertia lever is pivotally
30 mounted within said latch mechanism.